

Kate drives 'em wild babe puts on M-way show

hil Boucher

that gorgeous Kate Price – would have NO problems getting what she wanted one. Strokes would give their right tit a fair portion of their killer stunning curves resting in at beside them. Episode of *When Jordan Met Peter*, as the 26-year-old is by when her new Ferrari breaks 25 (in the picture, right). In stay in the car and wait for struts along the hard shoulder miniskirt and skin-tight top. Nobody stops to help! the model mum calls lover Andre with a cry, "I don't want yet: I haven't done my Westlife that Kate is finally saved. the dramatic rescue is just one in a roller-coaster day that race around a go-kart course her Ferrari on a racetrack. comes home to find that Peter,



31, has covered the outside walls of her house in pink fairy lights – as a Christmas treat.

But then in Jordan's world nothing is very normal. The series, which is soon to have an extended weekly run on ITV2, has already

shown the lovers travel to hotspots such as the Maldives, Caribbean and Cyprus.

Kate also famously tucked into some fish eyes on ITV1's *I'm A Celebrity* and recently managed to build a swimming pool and play area for disadvantaged kids in her home town of Brighton.

Rumour has it that Mr Nasty Simon Cowell, 45, has also asked the beautiful babe to become a judge on the next series of *X Factor*.

A source close to Cowell, 45, confides: "Jordan would add some extra glamour to the competition and I'm sure her fans would tune in to watch her.

"She'll be great and has definitely got The X Factor."

So if you like to belt out some classics while charging down the M25 you may have missed your chance of stardom – and a close-up view of a national treasure.

Unlucky boys!

● *Catch When Jordan met Peter on ITV1 tonight, 11pm.*



BRA-VO PERFORMANCE: Kate's most famous assets are covered courtesy of www.figleaves.com, with knickers from Ann Summers. Her belt and bracelet are both from Accessories Plus.

Pictures: CAN Associates Ltd

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Just Jane



Just Jane

JANE O'GORMAN SOLVES YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY AND EVERY DAY

I wanna leave him for bi pal

AFTER months of nagging, my boyfriend finally persuaded me to arrange a threesome between us and my mate.

This friend is openly bisexual and has never made a secret of fancying my boyfriend and me.

I invited her round to our flat and as I poured the first glass of wine she tenderly stroked my hair and told me that I looked gorgeous.

Just then my boyfriend walked in and popped a horny video into the machine.

I felt extremely nervous and drank greedily, but as the wine began to do its stuff I gradually lost my inhibitions.

My fella asked us to sit on the sofa while he stripped off for us.

Then it was my mate's turn. She performed a slow, sensual strip and encouraged me to take off her G-string.

By the time that I was naked too, I was feeling extremely horny — for her.

Touched

All three of us made our way to the bedroom where we kissed, touched and loved for hours. But if I'm completely honest, it was my mate who did it for me the most.

She really turned me on and gave me the most powerful orgasm I've ever experienced.

I've not stopped thinking about her ever since.

How do I begin to tell my boyfriend that he's out and she's in?

JANE SAYS: Sexual threesomes may seem exciting and thrilling.

But inevitably, there are complications with someone getting hurt.

In this case, it looks like your boyfriend is the odd one out.

He may have been the one to instigate your sex game, but he's now surpassing requirements.

All you can do is to be honest with him.

Explain that your feelings for him have changed and that you'd prefer to spend more time with your friend.

Be prepared for the fact that he'll be shocked and angry, but what other choice do you have?

It might be tempting to carry on with your friend behind his back, but that wouldn't be fair.

TWO weeks ago I published this letter from a reader:

MY 13-year-old daughter has come under the influence of a much older girl.

Suddenly she's sulky and rude and I don't know where she is from one minute to the next. Her new best friend is 19 and a tough cookie.

But she didn't come home the other night and money has started going missing.

Here are some of your replies:

MY two years ago my daughter started dating an unsuitable boy, but I didn't interfere. One day a neighbour told me that my daughter was taking drugs. Later I found out she was working as a prostitute.

Now I have no idea where she is. Every day I blame myself for not being stronger and saving her.

NAME WITHHELD

RIGHT TO REPLY



MY middle daughter was very badly bullied at school. An older girl continually picked on her and forced her to steal money.

As soon as I realised what was going on, I was down on that school like a ton of bricks. I suggest that if your reader wants to help her daughter, she needs to get tough.

Mrs DENISE JONES, Wolverhampton.

YOUR reader must show her daughter that she is in charge. She's got to man-mark her every

inch of the way and let her know that she is loved and cherished. That's what I did when my daughter started playing up — and it worked.

DANNY HILL, Cumbria.

NOW for this week's problem. Send your advice to the address at the foot of the page. Your letters will be printed in two weeks' time.

PEOPLE have told me my best mate calls me her "fat friend". She only hangs around with me because I make her look gorgeous.

Apparently my "fat arse" and "triple chins" (her words) mean that I'm no threat. She's Lisa Snowdon to my Lisa Riley.

I feel so hurt and humiliated, especially as she's always so nice to me. When we're together she's always suggesting new hairstyles and outfits — I couldn't bear to think that she's been using me.

My mum's just mad for men

MY mum is a tart. Suddenly she's shagging anything with a pulse.

She's 50 and her current lover is a 26-year-old brat.

He's gorgeous and very committed to her, but she thinks nothing of cheating on him with guys of all ages.

She regularly goes out on the pull with her "Saga-lager" mates and rarely comes home empty-handed. I've seen everything from a grey-

haired grandad to a bling-bling fly boy come down our stairs recently.

The other night I walked in the front room and actually caught her giving a guy a blow job.

Begging

I've absolutely no idea who he was and haven't seen him again.

I keep begging her to be careful. She just laughs and says, "I'm hardly going to get pregnant at my age, am I love?" I'm worried that she's

out of control. Since my Dad left her for a younger woman, she's been determined to live life to the full.

She's dyed her hair, taken to wearing high heels and staying out late.

But surely I'm not alone in thinking older people can get sexually transmitted infections too?

JANE SAYS: I'm afraid that age is no protection against STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections). If your mum is having promiscuous, unprotected sex, then she's just as likely to catch anything from herpes to HIV as a younger person. And STIs among older people are on the increase.

I know that you've already tried talking to her, but do try again.

Warn her that infected men don't come with a label. The most upright and wholesome man can be a carrier.

Suggest that she checks out playingsafely.co.uk or calls the Sexual Health Line on 0800 567 123 for information on condoms and safer sex.

Obviously it is difficult for you to preach to your mother about morals, but she really does need to rethink her dangerous lifestyle.

SELFISH GROOM

MY boyfriend and I are supposed to be getting married next September, but he's quibbling about every penny I spend.

I want a big do with all the trimmings. He wants everything to be as low-key as possible. I want a flash meal, eight bridesmaids and a horse-drawn carriage. He wants the church hall and a pay bar.

Yet when it comes to his stag night he's pushing the boat out. Instead of the usual pub crawl or weekend in Blackpool, he's planning a week of water sports with his single mates in Thailand. The stag bash will be more expensive than our honeymoon.

But there's no arguing with him. He

says that he's entitled to his final fling, and he's going to have it.

JANE SAYS: I suspect that your boyfriend isn't quite ready to give up his bachelorhood quite yet. The fact that he's selfishly putting his own enjoyment before your wedding is very worrying.

Insist on a heart-to-heart and find out where his priorities really lie. If he's not totally committed to the idea of marriage and completely ready for the responsibility, perhaps you'd be better off postponing it.

A stag do in Blackpool is one thing, but one in Thailand is a whole new box of ping pong balls.



JANE'S ADVICE LINES

(Calls cost 60p per minute from a BT landline)

0905 062 2180

Coping With A Break-up

0905 062 2181

Finding The Perfect Partner

0905 062 2182

My Sex Life Is Boring

0905 062 2183

Boost Your Confidence

0905 062 2184

The Female Orgasm

0905 062 2185

My Partner Is Having An Affair

0905 062 2186

I'm So Lonely

0905 062 2187

Coping With Jealousy

0905 062 2188

Having Sex After A Baby

0905 062 2189

We Argue All The Time

0905 062 2190

Loving For The First Time

0905 062 2191

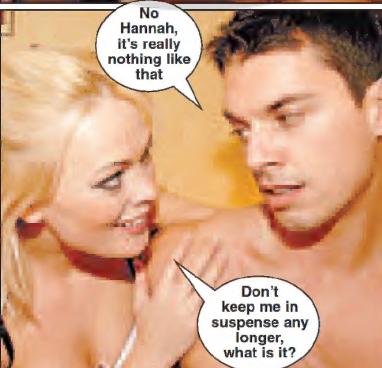
Fantastic Sex

To have a problem answered on this page, write to JUST JANE, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

WE BROKE UP BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Day Five

HANNAH IS WAITING FOR JAMES'S EXPLANATION



CONTINUES TOMORROW

AL MURRAY SERVES UP SOME FESTIVE ADVICE ALONG

The Pub Landlord's SURVIVAL



POTTER POTTY:
Have a drink when the ginger kid pulls that face...

■ **CHRISTMAS** is a time for tradition. So who better to offer advice on how to have a great British knees-up than our favourite comedy pub landlord and Hell's Kitchen star, Al Murray.

■ The ranting publican is straight out of the old school and reckons the old ways are the best.

■ And as with all pub landlords, it's his gaff, so they're his rules. You have been warned... cheers!



■ **ON THE PULL:** At Christmas, if you don't ask you don't get

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Don't Buy Date of birth 19

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GETTING WASTED

The landlord says: Christmas is a time for all the family so the best thing to get through it is to make sure you get a skintful.

Mind you, it's all about pacing yourself. Christmas and New Year are a marathon, not a sprint. None of us want to be the Paula Radcliffe of booze and drop out before New Year's Eve.

FESTIVE TIPPLES

The landlord says: Make sure you drink the correct drinks - pint for the fellas, glass of white wine or fruit-based drink for the lady, though mulled wine is allowed for the gentleman on the grounds of its seasonal nature. And it's virtually soft anyway.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

The landlord says: Don't drink and drive. The best way to ensure you don't drink and drive is to get the lady in your life pregnant, that way she has to drive. And if that isn't the best argument you've heard for knocking up your girlfriend, lads, I don't know what is.

PACING YOURSELF

The landlord says: On Christmas Day the important thing is to drink just enough so you can nap through the Queen's Speech, then get your second wind and coast through EastEnders as best you can. Go for it in the evening and when the Harry Potter film comes on play the drinking game.

Every time that ginger lad pulls that squiffy face of his you have to take a drink, and drink a full pint down when they realise that Voldemort is the bad guy.

HOW TO ROMANCE A LADY OVER CHRISTMAS

The landlord says: For the single fellas Christmas can be a trying time, but the good Lord gave us mistletoe so the ugly could experience love and/or a

fumble at the very least. Women are complex, but if you compliment them on their hair you're off to a terrific start.

CHRISTMAS CHAT-UP LINES

The landlord says: "I like your hair" is as good a place as any to start. I have a drinker called Jim who swears by the one in 10 rule.

He reckons if you're direct with the ladies and tell them exactly what you're after, then one in 10 will succumb. Of course the other nine think you're a charmless tw*t.

CONVERSATION OVER THE DINNER TABLE

The landlord says: At Christmas you should talk about the birth of Jesus and how marvellous it was

vellous institution. It's my prediction she'll go on about the Commonwealth and our brave boys and girls, and then return to her dinner of swan with all the trimmings.

CHRISTMAS RECORDS

The landlord says: There is a place called Christmas Island where it is Christmas every day. Someone tell Wizzard and his band to knock it off.

HOW A PUNTER SHOULD TREAT HIS PUB LANDLORD AT CHRISTMAS

The landlord says: Your publican doesn't have Christmas like you punters, because he is your Christmas. So treat him with respect and please take your glasses back to the bar. Cheers!

TIPPLE: Wine for ladies

that Christ came in December or else there'd be nothing to look forward to in the winter. And if you've pulled it's probably not best to go on about it in front of the wife.

QUEEN'S SPEECH

The landlord says: The Queen's Speech is a mar-

WITH PINTS... AND DRY WHITE WINE FOR THE LADIES

Christmas GUIDE



■ HAVE A SWILL TIME: Al Murray serves up some excellent advice



HERE IS THE SNOOZE: Sleep through Queen's Speech



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Get your lass pregnant so she'll play taxi

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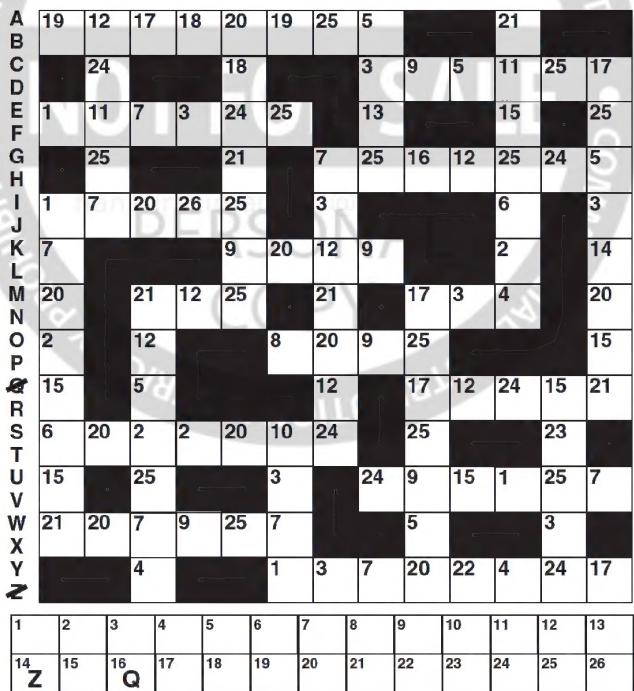
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Alphapuzzle™ tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow.

DIFFICULTY: 6/10; **TARGET:** 20 minutes; **CLUE:** Month for a permit.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: Across: Reopen, Simian, Forward, Knife, Chez, Petty, Quoth, Gale (clue) Aloof, Various, Gambol, Battle.

Down: Prefect, Baggy, Courier, Foamy, Feral, Buffoon, Adjective, Rickety, Broad, Visit, Cahoots, Index, Measles.

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0905 072 3264 (Hear up to six extra letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard)

● Alternatively, text DSALPHA to 83426 and we will text the six extra letter clues direct to your mobile. ● Texts cost £1 plus normal network operator rate.

FULL SOLUTION: 0905 072 3265

● Calls cost 75p per minute from BT landlines

Two-way Teaser

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS
 - 3 Signal with two flags – same can go wrong with four, it's said (9)
 - 7 A field crop you find on floor of wood (5)
 - 8 Block for a forger (5)
 - 9 But prank is mistaken with no money! (8)
 - 10 Longing is fading away (5)
 - 13 Bird, dog or horse (3)
 - 15 Complaint of a game-bird (6)
 - 16 A lamp's used for analysis of blood part (6)
 - 17 Big match is a very close one (3)
 - 19 Large animal wants field grass? No, we are told! (5)
 - 23 He should bring improvements for viewers (8)
 - 24 Making it at party gets you a bit drunk (5)
 - 25 Bird could be spread on the ground (5)

- 26 President Jimmy, embodying writer and craftsman (9)

DOWN

- 1 Fast food for German but not from Frankfurt? (9)
- 2 It's certain to jump! (5)
- 3 Poles are used in trap (5)
- 4 See me swallowing a cooked pig or bird (6)
- 5 Useful fellow, a DIY expert (8)
- 6 Sounds like shower, as a rule (5)
- 11 Cover for something that breaks down (9)
- 12 Athlete on top as silver medallist? (6-2)
- 13 It's fixed for collection (3)
- 14 A training to copy (3)

- 18 Effect of one MP on law (6)
- 20 He will tangle with any wild beast (5)
- 21 Sporty fellow who goes under in his job? (6)
- 22 Some painting expected to have bit of colour (5)

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS
 - 3 Signalling with flags (9)
 - 7 Fruit of the oak (5)
 - 8 Blacksmith's block (5)
 - 9 Financially ruined, insolvent (8)
 - 10 Passing away (5)
 - 13 Large area of water (3)
 - 15 Gamebird (6)
 - 16 Fluid portion of blood (6)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: ACROSS – 1 Blacklist, 7 Ocean, 9 Terrapin, 11 Ingot, 12 Cheetah, 14 Thin, 15 See, 17 Eat, 18 Nosy, 20 Clearly, 23 Scuba, 24 Misprint, 26 Delve, 27 Down under. DOWN – 2 Latch, 3 Carve, 4 Imp, 5 Tonight, 6 Instantly, 8 Engineer, 10 Alas, 12 Cast aside, 13 Eventual, 16 Ashamed, 19 Clip, 21 Alien, 22 Lathe, 25 Sew.

The Daily Star Crossword Books Vols 2 - 12, The Puzzler Books of Crosswords Vols 1-4 and The Puzzler Books of Puzzles Vols 2, 3 and 4 are all currently available at £3.99 each. Please send a cheque or postal order made payable to The Daily Star Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ or telephone 0871 434 6095 with your credit card details. Please allow 14 days for delivery. Postage in the UK is free.

Jolly Mixtures

Each clue is an anagram of the answer. But be careful – sometimes there is more than one possible solution, and some solutions may be proper names. You have to decide which is the correct one.

ACROSS

- 4 TEA-BARS
- 8 BLEATING
- 10 SAUCIEST
- 11 LEAF
- 12 ATE
- 13 SIT
- 14 TINSEL
- 15 LAIR
- 17 TRIED
- 20 BREAK
- 22 GAS
- 23 ROPES
- 25 THERE
- 28 BULB
- 30 ENGLUT
- 31 ARE
- 32 TOR
- 33 DIVA
- 34 PALMETTE
- 35 NEMATOID
- 36 IRONIES

DOWN

- 1 CELLAR
- 2 ANGLIA
- 3 STABLE
- 5 RIBBED
- 6 COLLAPSE
- 7 ITERATES
- 9 STEER
- 16 KIN
- 18 STEIN
- 19 AGLEE
- 20 BERTHING
- 21 HAPPIEST
- 24 LOW
- 25 SEANCE
- 26 REHID
- 27 METIER
- 28 BINARY
- 29 AUNTIE

BRICK TRICK

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

PATHFINDER

Algebra, calculus, logarithm, prime number, parallelogram, simultaneous equation, pi, Pythagoras' theorem, geometry, trapezium, factorial, parabola.

WORD LADDER

WORD, WORE, FORE, FARE, HARE, HALE, TALE, HAIR, FAIR, FAIL, BAIL, BALL, BALD, BAND.

SO COMPLETE

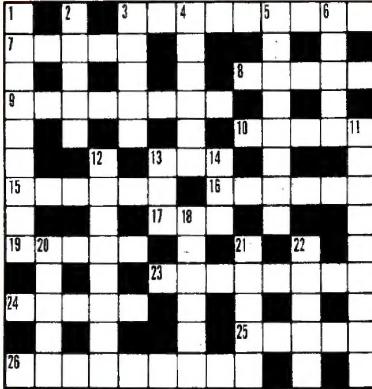
1 Friends 2 Mister Ed 3 Bewitched 4 Happy Days 5 Mork and Mindy 6 The Golden Girls.

TODAY'S ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S DAILY STAR

Call 0905 072 3267 for today's solution

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Two sets of clues, but the answers are the same ANSWERS TOMORROW



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UK TOP 10

1 (1) THE INCREDIBLES	£4,187,280
2 (2) BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	£1,696,588
3 (-) CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRANKS	£777,771
4 (3) THE FORGOTTEN	£496,985
5 (4) THE GRUDGE	£227,442
6 (6) THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE	£170,751
7 (-) CHURCHILL: THE HOLLYWOOD YEARS	£148,3269
8 (-) THE MERCHANT OF VENICE	£147,709
9 (5) AFTER THE SUNSET	£139,963
10 (8) VEER ZAARA	£135,390

US TOP 10

1 (1) NATIONAL TREASURE	\$17,004,967
2 (3) CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRANKS	\$11,163,492
3 (4) THE POLAR EXPRESS	\$10,778,094
4 (2) THE INCREDIBLES	\$9,015,796
5 (-) CLOSER	\$7,707,972
6 (5) SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	\$7,655,872
7 (6) ALEXANDER	\$4,756,445
8 (-) FINDING NEVERLAND	\$2,824,222
9 (7) BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	\$2,761,455
10 (9) RAY	\$1,888,860

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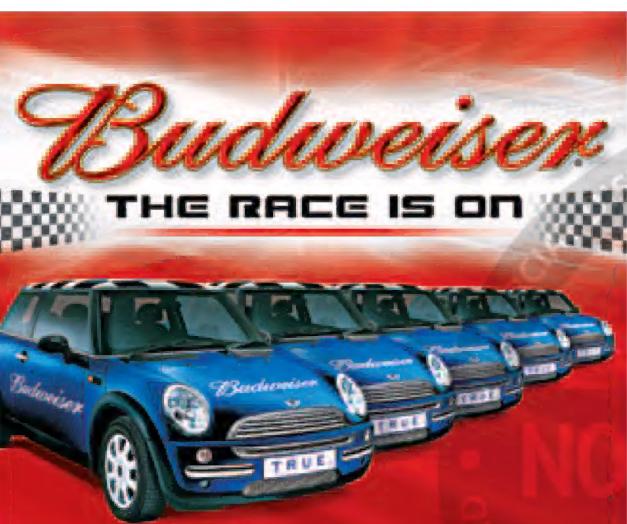
COMING SOON

NEXT WEEK: Harry Potter will have a rival when the best-selling children's fantasy about three orphans who are facing dastardly deeds, Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events, arrives with Jim Carrey...

THE WEEK AFTER: Leonardo DiCaprio deserves to win the Best Actor Oscar for his portrait of Hollywood pioneer, filer and legendary lover Howard Hughes in The Aviator...

TOP 10

1 (2) SPIDER-MAN 2
2 (1) HARRY POTTER and the PRISONER OF AZKABAN
3 (3) TROY
4 (4) ELF
5 (5) THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
6 (6) FAHRENHEIT 9/11
7 (-) 13 GOING ON 30
8 (10) AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
9 (9) SHREK 2
10 (-) QUICKSAND



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Fine state of affairs

GARDEN STATE (15)

ZACH Braff, the daffy doctor from the TV sitcom Scrubs, scores gold as writer and director of this oddball romantic comedy.

He hits the bull as a small-time Hollywood actor who comes home to New Jersey for his mother's funeral.

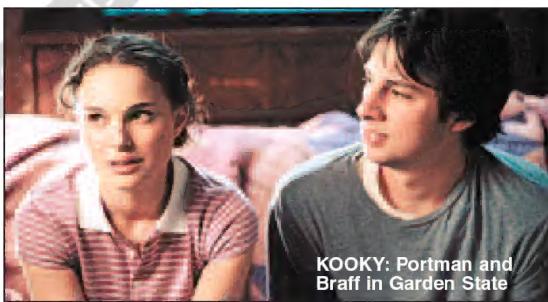
He also scores romancing kooky, congenital liar Natalie Portman – in her best performance. He meets her while a blind woman's guide-dog bonks his leg in a waiting room. (Strangely, David Blunkett isn't credited as the pet's trainer).

The blend of off-the-wall characters, like the man breakfasting in armour, frequently surreal situations and wild dialogue adds up to an unusual, enjoyable comedy.

VERDICT: 7/10

LOS ANGELES PLAYS ITSELF (PG)

THIS consistently-fascinating documentary tells the story of LA, easily the world's most-filmed city, through a compelling collection of feature



KOOKY: Portman and Braff in Garden State

film clips. And while it's long it's never boring and it's a rare treat, especially for movie buffs.

VERDICT: 8/10

MONDOVINO (PG)
FILMMAKER Jonathan Nossiter's

cynical look at the wide, wide world of wine growers and wine marketing cheerfully exposes serious drinkers and snobs but – and I didn't drink before it – his ever-bobbing camera gave me a hangover.

VERDICT: 6/10

A BITE OF ALL RIGHT

WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION:
Snipes on the hunt for Dracula



BLADE: TRINITY (15)
DRAC'S back and biting mad in a superior shocker that's just the ticket for everyone with a taste for terror – except for Tony Blair after the humiliation he's suffered because they couldn't find WMDs in Iraq.

It's Blair's bad luck that the desperate hunt for weapons of mass destruction missed the most dangerous WMD of them all, Wicked Monster Dracula. He's asleep in darkest Iraq waiting to embark a new reign of bloody terror. But it's mankind's good luck that when modern blood drinkers unleash Dracula, Wesley Snipes is there as sword-wielding slice-and-dice vampire slayer Blade, to kick vampire ass.

Even though the FBI, vicious vampires and all-powerful Dracula – who can now walk in daylight without burning to a crisp – are all out for his blood, Snipes is still there to save the day, with a little help from Nightstalkers Jessica Biel and Ryan Reynolds.

Cracking

Writer-director David S Goyer starts the show off with a bang, with the first 10 minutes containing more blazing action than a whole Indiana Jones movie. He never lets the chills and thrills peter out or allows the cracking pace to slow – all the way to the sword-slashing climax when Snipes and Dracula fight to the death, man to monster.

While there's even more of the first two hit films' fangs-and-fighting formula, Trinity, with its super-cool hero played to the max by Snipes, happily has its tongue firmly in its bloody cheek and doesn't take itself too seriously.

Biel fires a crossbow with an accuracy that would make King Arthur's Keira Knightley green with envy. Reynolds is a hunky human hero and Parker Posey is a hoot as a vampire with the silliest hairdo since Brucie's TV toupee. If you fancy a riot of shocks and stunts it's perfect for you.

VERDICT: 10/10

while an old regular haunts the opera house

SLOWLY DOES IT:
Emmy Rossum and Gerard Butler. Right, the movie looks stunning, as does Jennifer Ellison, who co-stars



PHANTOM FALLS FLAT

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (12A)
MORE than 70 million people have seen Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical on stage.

And now millions more can enjoy it as the movie hits the big screen in spectacular style, dressed to the nines in Oscar-worthy settings and costumes.

It's the frequently-filmed story of the evil Phantom who stalks the Paris Opera House, killing anyone who stands in the way of his beautiful singing protege Christine, played here by Emmy Rossum in a great star-making performance.

Lloyd Webber and director Joel Schumacher adapted the show for the screen and the trouble is that they have conspired to make a film that's often snail-slow and over-

stuffed with Lloyd Webber's (for me) trite tunes.

Gerard Butler's Phantom lacks charisma and isn't really all that scary. Miranda Richardson acquits herself well as the only actor with a French accent and Simon Callow and Ciaran Hinds are good value as a comedy duo.

And then there's Minnie Driver (whose singing is doubled but whose acting, sadly, isn't) chewing the scenery to shreds as an irritatingly OTT operatic Diva. I blame the Phantom who tries to dispose of her early on but muffs the job.

Still, there's much to admire in the stunning settings in, and under, the Opera House and fans of the stage show will doubtless have a ball.

VERDICT 5/10



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WIN awesome Spidey prizes

SPIDEY'S back in the most eagerly-anticipated superhero release of the year.

Spider-Man 2 is the blockbuster follow-up to the comic-book legend's first big-screen outing.

Tobey Maguire returns in the famous red-and-blue outfit as Peter Parker aka Spider-Man.

Joining him is the Hollywood honey Kirsten Dunst, who is back as love-interest Mary Jane Watson.

Meanwhile Brit star Alfred Molina offers up a blistering performance as Spidey's new nemesis, the evil Dr Otto Octavius - or Doc Ock, as he's better known.

Struggle

The thrills and spills continue as mild-mannered Peter struggles to juggle his dual life as college student and world superhero.

Two years have passed since he walked away from his beloved Mary Jane and faced up to the responsibility of being Spider-Man.

But our hero faces new challenges as he

■ by SAM PARKER

struggles with the gift and curse of his superpower. His greatest challenge comes from his formidable foe Dr Ock, whose limbs can move at speeds of 90 feet per second and whose powerful tentacles enable him to pulverise bricks and claw through concrete walls.

With awe-inspiring special effects, a top-notch cast and fast-paced plot, Spider-Man 2 offers up family entertainment to keep you on the edge of your seat.

To celebrate the home release of Spider-Man 2, we've got a DVD player and 10 DVDs to give away.

Simply answer this question: In the movie, what is the name of the mild-mannered student who is Spider-Man's alter ego?

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Texts cost £1, plus your usual network rate. Usual Daily Star contest rules apply.

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TOP TIP
THE RETURN OF THE KING: SPECIAL EXTENDED EDITION (12)
(Entertainment DVD/VHS)

NOW with fascinating extra footage, this movie brings Peter Jackson's magnificent Lord of the Rings trilogy to a triumphant end.

Everyone with a sense of wonder - and they will include even Christopher Lee, whose wicked wizard Saruman was cut when the final film was released in cinemas - cannot fail to be enthralled.

Jackson kicks off where The Two Towers ended as brave Hobbits Frodo and Sam face danger and betrayal from vicious Gollum on their mission to destroy the One Ring.

The King was deservedly crowned with 11 Oscars, including Best Film and Best Director for Jackson, and I guarantee you'll love it too.

VERDICT: 10/10

FAMILY CHOICE
13 GOING ON 30 (12)

If you recall Big, you'll know what to expect when 13-year-old Christa B Allen is sprinkled with magic dust in 1987 and wakes up in 2004 as 30-year-old Manhattan magazine editor Jennifer Garner.

Allen's wish to be "30, dirty and living" has come true in this pleasant fantasy. And its most fantastic element is that Garner, who's still 13 inside, turns out to be a publishing genius.

The silly show goes down easily enough and TV star Garner is lovely and has charm to spare, although sometimes you strain to believe in her character - notably when she finds that she's been having an affair with a married man.

VERDICT: 6/10

BEST OF THE REST
THE ARKOFF FILM LIBRARY PRESENTS - CLASSIC HORROR (15) (Direct Video DVD)

IN the long missed days of the double feature - when you saw two films for the price of one - lively shockers were the pick of the B movie bunch.

Here's your chance to see five schlock classics and thrill to everything from killer space aliens to the undead.

Legendary director Roger Corman's zestful Day The World Ended finds nuclear war survivors battling mutants, while his chiller The Undead is a scary time travel story. The She Creature turns up and turns nasty when a hypnotist puts ...

VERDICT: 9/10

BEST BUY
ULTIMATE MATRIX COLLECTION (15) (WARNER DVD (10 discs) £59.99)

YOU'LL believe Keanu Reeves can fly when you see him do the business in the definitive version of the mega-million dollar action fantasy.

Not only do you get all three classics in the trilogy together, you also get the fascinating The Matrix Revisited and the bestselling The Animatrix as well.

And for extra value, there are five new DVDs filled to the brim with all aspects of the unique Matrix universe.

VERDICT: 9/10

MAJESTIC:
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2.10 Dr Phil. Life strategist Dr Phil McGraw answers America's parenting quandaries, from critical mums to wayward children and everything in between 5339774. **3.05** The Sharon Osbourne Show. Sharon's joined by actor DL Hughley 1160565. **4.00** Buffy The Vampire Slayer. Robin gives Buffy a bag of his mother's possessions, including a sealed box containing a puppet show (T) 23584. **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation. When the ship's archaeologist is killed, Worf feels responsible for the son she left behind (T) 2942.

6.00 Malcolm In The Middle. The younger boys try to convince Lois to let them have a mini-bike and Hal attends a father-son weekend at Marlin Academy (T) 8045. **6.30** Futurama. Fry discovers that a small amount of money left in his old bank account has matured into a fortune (T) 6497.



SURVIVAL: Ray, 9pm

7.00 THE SIMPSONS Facing the prospect of flunking his school's IQ test, Bart switches tests with super-brain Martin Prince (T) 5371.

7.30 THE SIMPSONS After Springfield wins the title of World's Fattest Town, Marge launches an anti-sugar crusade. With the guest voice of Ben Stiller (T) 5381.

8.00 BATTLESTAR GALACTICA Starbuck has a crisis of conscience when ordered to torture a Cylon who claims to have planted a bomb 40749.

9.00 FILM: NO ESCAPE (1993) A soldier is sent to prison in the year 2022 for shooting one of his superiors. With corporations controlling the prison system, a ruthless prison warden has created the ultimate solution for his most troublesome and violent inmates. Thriller, starring Ray Liotta, Kevin Dillon and Lance Henriksen 53213.

10.00 EUROMILLIONS DRAW Live coverage of the draw 166519.

10.10 FILM: NO ESCAPE (1993) Conclusion of tonight's thriller 8703213.

11.20 VERY WORST... The worst jobs that people have had the misfortune of doing (T) 201229.

12.20 STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION (Rpt) (T) 3395430. **1.20** Gameville. News, reviews, gossip and debate (Rpt) 7082188. **2.15** Angel (Rpt) (T) 3576350. **3.05** ER (Rpt) 14849701. **3.30** Tarzan (Rpt) 9236614. **4.20** Hot Love 6575209. **4.45** The Sharon Osbourne Show 3366985. **5.35-6.00** Kong 6214256.



DOUBLE TROUBLE: Tom and Jason, Sky Movies 1, 8pm

telly movies

STAR RATINGS

****Don't miss it
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**Time filler "Garbage!"

■ AUNTIE MAME (1958) **** **C4, 9.15-11.50am.** Comedy. Orphan Jan Handzlick goes to live with his flamboyant aunt Rosalind Russell when his millionaire father dies. Also starring Forrest Tucker.

■ THE RETURN OF FRANK JAMES (1940) *** **BBC2, 1.30-3.00pm.** Western sequel. Outlaw Henry Fonda vows vengeance when the men who murdered his brother Jesse are freed. Co-starring Gene Tierney and Jackie Cooper.

■ NIGHTMARE IN THE DAYLIGHT (TVM, 1992) *** **Five, 4.00-5.30pm.** Drama. Married Wisconsin teacher Jaclyn Smith is stalked by Los Angeles lawyer Christopher Reeve who thinks she is the wife he lost in an earthquake. Also starring Tom Mason.

■ DISCLOSURE (1994) *** **Five, 10.05pm-12.35am.** Drama. Executive Demi Moore is accused of sexual harassment by former lover Michael Douglas.

■ THE WRAITH (1986) *** **BBC1, 11.35pm-1.10am.** Action shocker. High school hero Charlie Sheen comes back from the dead to take bloody revenge against the gang who killed him.

■ CIRCLE OF DECEPTION (1999) *** **Five, 12.35-2.10am.** Thriller. A young woman finds her life is being destroyed after she invites a friend who turns out to be a dangerous psychopath to stay.

■ THE TERROR (1963) *** **BBC2, 12.35-2.00am.** Cult shocker. Lost soldier Jack Nicholson follows Sandra Knight to a strange castle owned by even stranger Baron Boris Karloff.

■ STAR MAPS (1997) *** **ITV1, 1.40-3.05am.** Drama. The teenage son of Mexican émigrés living in Los Angeles dreams of becoming a film star.

■ MIDNIGHT FLIGHT (TVM, 1997) *** **Five, 2.10-3.45am.** Thriller. An American woman sees someone sabotaging a plane in a German airport.

ALAN FRANK

FILMFOUR

6.00 PAPER MOON (1973) Drama, starring Ryan O'Neal and Tatum O'Neal 6870294

8.00 GET REAL (1998) Two schoolboys secretly fall in love and coming out becomes the only option. Drama, starring Ben Silverstone 6882039

10.00 KIDS (1995) Story explaining the attitudes towards sex, drugs and morality among a group of New York City adolescents. Drama, starring Leo Fitzpatrick 3012720

11.40 GERRY (2002) Two friends go for a hike in Death Valley but lose their car and run low on water. Drama, starring Matt Damon 1373478

1.20 THE WERCKEIMISTER HARMONIES (2000) Drama, starring Lars Rudolph 46296643

3.40 TWIN FALLS IDAHO (1998) Drama, starring Mark Polish 9623430

5.30 CLOSE

SKY MOVIES 1

6.40 Mel (1999) 39123045. **8.30** The Kid Who Loved Christmas (1990) 39652. **10.30** S1mone (2002) 74923. **12.30** End Of The Line (1988) 60774. **2.30** The Clinic (2004) 40830126. **4.15** The Kid Who Loved Christmas (1990) 19258039. **6.00** S1mone (2002) Comedy, starring Al Pacino 38958. **8.00** Stealing Harvard (2001) Comedy, starring Tom Green and Jason Lee 25128. **9.30** Dumb And Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd (2003) Comedy, starring Eric Christian Olsen 30107. **11.00** Bottle Rocket (1996) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson 930045. **12.35** Big Trouble (2000) 6979053. **2.05** Crooklyn (1994) 192430. **4.05-6.00** Jackie Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (2000) 481169

SKY MOVIES 2

6.25 A Wind At My Back (Christmas) (2001) 20356652. **8.05** Mr Atlas (1997) 81479861. **9.45** Killer Bees (2002) 85295590. **11.25** Dancing At The Harvest Moon (2001) 51847519. **1.05** A Wind At My Back (Christmas) (2001) 39663565. **2.45** The Man Who Saved Christmas (2002) 27895039. **4.25** Killer Bees (2002) 71331923. **6.05** Arthur 2: On The Rocks (1988) Comedy, starring Dudley Moore 10440720. **8.00** Bulletproof Monk (2002) Comedy 35861. **10.00** Ghost Ship (2002) Horror 871213. **11.35** Roger Dodger (2003) 478300. **1.25** The Medicine Show (2001) 815053. **3.05** Sorority Boys (2002) 247099. **4.40-6.20** Dancing At The Harvest Moon (2001) 80054782.

SKY CINEMA 1

6.00 The Amorous Adventures Of Moll Flanders (1965) 66614584. **8.10** The Virgin Queen (1955) 40094300. **9.50** Twelve O'Clock High (1949) 82629584. **12.05** Tora! Tora! Tora! The Giant Awakes 6403300. **1.50** The Amorous Adventures Of Moll Flanders (1965) 35774300. **4.00** The Virgin Queen (1955) 91514381. **5.45** Twelve O'Clock High (1949) 80782126. **8.00** The Mean Machine (1974) Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds 7476584. **10.00** Flesh And Blood (1985) Adventure 64017381. **12.15** The Rutles (1978) Comedy 13470362. **1.40** The Mean Machine (1974) 26664985. **3.45** US Top Ten 2960184. **4.15-6.00** Tora! Tora! Tora! The Giant Awakes 1467527.

SKY BOX OFFICE

Today's films on Sky Box Office Digital at various times throughout the day are: Shaun Of The Dead (2004), Gothika (2003), Our House (2003), School Of Flock (2003), Against The Ropes (2004), Cold Mountain (2003), Kill Bill: Vol. 2 (2004), The Lord Of The Rings: Return Of The King (2003), Monster (2003), Starsky And Hutch (2004), Torque (2004), Welcome To Mooseport (2004), Along Came Polly (2004), Bad Boys II (2003), Hidalgo (2004), Mona Lisa Smile (2003), Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004), Barbershop 2: Back In Business (2004), The Calcium Kid (2004), The Missing (2003)



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2.00 WITHOUT A TRACE See 6pm 63624213

3.00 THE SIMPLE LIFE Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie get a job at Sonic Burger but find it difficult to follow the rules 29867687

3.30 SMALLVILLE: SUPERMAN THE

EARLY YEARS See 7pm 19575497

4.30 HOLLYOAKS Justin's letter to his mum didn't have the desired effect 99469836

5.00 FRIENDS See 8pm 29862132

5.30 FRIENDS See 8.30pm 99556316

6.00 WITHOUT A TRACE The team are called in when a school bus is hijacked by kidnappers demanding an increasing ransom 81185403

7.00 SMALLVILLE: SUPERMAN THE EARLY YEARS Lex locates Morgan Edge and gets him to admit to criminal dealings with Lionel. But before Lex can go to the authorities, someone tries to kill him 10386836

8.00 FRIENDS Will Emily forgive Ross before their honeymoon? 29868316

8.30 FRIENDS Rachel appoints Monica as her advisor in romance 29774923

9.00 RAMSAY'S KITCHEN NIGHTMARES

First in a new four-part series, Gordon Ramsay meets Francesco Mattioli, the owner of The Walnut Tree Inn in South Wales, who is broke, chef-less and desperate to restore the

restaurant's former reputation 10375720

10.00 SEX AND THE CITY Miranda runs into a hairstylist she is suing for age discrimination. Carrie discovers that Mr Big is dating a 26-year-old named Natasha 18774652

10.35 SEX AND THE CITY Samantha meets Mr Too Big. Charlotte becomes reacquainted with an equine friend 84201132

11.10 FOOL AROUND... WITH MY MUM

Reality relationship show exploring how much guys can tell about a future girlfriend just by dating their mother 84981590

11.40 GREEN WING Caroline

is broody but confused whether to put her trust in Guy or Mac. Martin gets his

exam results 28661519

12.50 Hollyoaks 1.20 The Secret Life Of Us 2.10 Sex And The City 2.35 Sex And The City 3.10 The Simple Life 3.30 Fool Around... With My Mum 4.00 Close

BBC THREE

7.00 The 7 O'Clock News On

BBC Three 7.30 Body Hits

8.00 Trauma 8.30 Little Angels

9.00 The Story Of Bohemian

Rhapsody 10.00 EastEnders

10.30 Outlaws, Dunbar is

tempted by a financial offer

11.00 Little Britain 11.30 Two

Pints Of Lager And A Packet

Of Crisps 12.00 Two Pints Of

Lager And A Packet Of Crisps

12.30 David Ginola: Secrets

And Lies 1.30 Mind, Body And

Kick Ass, Moves With Chris

Crudelli 2.00 Mind, Body And

Kick Ass, Moves With Chris

Crudelli 2.30 Outlaws 3.00

Two Pints Of Lager And A

Packet Of Crisps 3.30 Who

Rules The Rock? 4.25 Close

SCI-FI

6.00 The Ray Bradbury

Theatre 7.00 Teleshopping

10.00 Quantum Leap

11.00 The Lone Gunmen

12.00 Witchblade 1.00 The

Pretender 2.00 Witch Hunt

3.00 The Outer Limits

4.00 Quantum Leap 5.00

Alien Abduction 'The Mystery

Unravelled' 6.00 Witchblade

7.00 The Pretender 8.00

Children Of Dune 9.35 The

New Twilight Zone 10.00 Film:

Hideaway (1995) Thriller

12.00 Film: Night Of The

Demons II (1994) Horror 1.45

The Outer Limits 3.35 Ray

Bradbury Theatre 4.05 Lexx

5.05-6.00 Tracker

BRAVO

9.00 CHiPs 10.00 Marin Cup

11.00 Alias 12.00 Games

Attack 12.30 Gamer TV 1.00

Street Crime 1.30 Dumbest

Criminals 2.45 Seven Days

3.40 UFO 4.30 Game-Pad

5.00 Gamer TV 5.30 Games

Attack 6.00 Knight Rider 7.00

Street Crime 7.30 Games

Attack 8.00 Alias 9.00

Outrageous 9.30 Street Crime

10.00 Booze Britain 10.30

Premiership Diaries 11.00 Pain

11.30 World Of Pain

12.00 Laid Bare 12.30 Booze

Britain 1.00 Downloaded 2.00

Exposure 2.55 Excentriks 3.00 Close



KING OF THE KITCHEN: Gordon, E4, 9pm

lifestyle telly

CHALLENGE

6.00 Teleshopping 7.00 Gladiators 8.00 The

Crystal Maze 9.00 Fort Boyard 10.00 100%

10.30 TV Scrabble 11.00 Bruce's Price Is

Right 11.30 Family Fortunes 12.00 Wheel

Of Fortune 12.30 Catchphrase 1.00 Classic

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 2.00 The

Krypton Factor 2.30 Bullseye 3.00 Celebrities

TV Bloopers 4.00 The Crystal Maze 5.00

Classic Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?

6.00 Takeshi's Castle 7.00 Swag 7.30

Ultimate Guinness World Records 8.00 The

Krypton Factor 8.30 Bullseye 9.00 Classic

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10.00

PacificPoker.com UK Open 12.00 Ultimate

Guinness World Records 12.30 Swag 1.00

Takeshi's Castle 2.00 Bragging Rights 2.30

Wheel Of Fortune 3.00 Family Fortunes

3.30 House Of Games 4.00 House Of

Games 4.30 The Krypton Factor 5.00

Bruce's Price Is Right 5.30-6.00 Teleshopping

ITV 2

9.25 Coronation Street 9.55 Emmerdale

10.15 Sally Jessy Raphael 11.15 Judge

Judy 12.30 Coronation Street 1.00

Emmerdale 1.30 Airline 2.00 Trisha 3.05

Jerry Springer 3.55 The John Walsh Show

4.45 Sally Jessy Raphael 5.35 Judge Judy

5.50 Movies Now 7.00 Fatboy Slim's

Orange Playlist 7.30 Beyoncé... In Profile

8.00 Planet's Funniest Animals 8.30 Get Me

Out Of Here... I'm An Aussie 9.30 Mark Durden-Smith presents a series in which Aussies

battle it out in the jungle 9.30 The Xtra

Factor: Xcess All Areas 10.30 Get Me Out

Of Here... I'm An Aussie 11.30 Coronation

Street 12.00 The Frank Skinner Show 12.50

The Xtra Factor: Xcess All Areas 1.40 Jerry

Springer 2.15 Late Show With David

Letterman 3.05 Teleshopping 5.05 ITV2

Nightscreen 5.10 Late Show With David

Letterman 6.00 Close

LIVINGTV

6.00 Home Shopping 7.00

Tiny Living 9.00 Baby Hospital

Live 12.00 Charmed 12.55 6ixth

Sense With Colin Fry 1.25

Crossing Over With John

Edward 1.50 Will & Grace

2.50 Everwood 3.45

According To Jim 4.15

Charmed 6.05 Will & Grace

7.00 Celebrity Snappers

7.30 Retail Therapy 8.00

Will & Grace 9.00 CSI: Crime

Scene Investigation

10.00 CSI: Crime Scene

Investigation 11.00 Moulin

Rouge Girls 11.30 Moulin

Rouge Girls 12.00 Film:

Bram Stoker's Dracula

(1992) Horror 2.20 All

Grown Up: All Access 3.10

What Men Want 3.35 Cold

Squad 4.31 Celebrity Extra

4.45 Ricki Lake 5.30-6.00

Home Shopping

pop telly

MTV

Including at 12.30 Cribs 1.00 Laguna Beach

1.30 Newlyweds 2.00 Ashlee Simpson 2.30

Laguna Beach 3.00 MTV Mash 3.30 Making

The Movie: Team America 4.00 Dismissed

4.30 Boiling Points 5.00 Newlyweds 5.30

America Or Busted 6.00 TRL 7.00 Making

The Movie: Ocean's Twelve 7.30 Gwen

Stefani: Making The Video 8.00 MTV 7.75

9.00 Pimp My Ride 10.30 Motormouth 11.00 America Or

Busted 11.30-12.00 Sanchez On Sanchez

VH-1

6.00 Breakfast 7.00 Astro Day 8.00

Favourite Xmas Song 9.00 One Hit

Wonders 10.45 Battle Of Band Aids 11.00

Christmas Turkeys 12.35 Battle Of Band

Aids 12.55 Then And Now 1.00 Top 20

Number Ones: 1980-2003 5.00 Christmas

Turkeys 6.35 Christmas Crackers 8.20 Favourite

Xmas Song 9.00 Retrosexual 10.00 Sex

Lies And Celebrities 11.00 X-Rated Videos

1.00 Matchmaker 3.00-6.00 Greatest Hits

UKTV GOLD

6.00 Neighbours 6.30 As Time Goes By 7.10 It

Ain't Half Hot Mum 7.50 Doctors 8.25

EastEnders 9.00 The Bill 10.00 Holby City

11.00 Casualty 12.00 Doctors 12.40

EastEnders 1.20 Keeping Up Appearances

2.00 BERGERAC See 6pm 4658671

3.00 THE BILL Meadows fails to hear a cry

for help 2110213

4.00 HOLBY CITY Ric finds himself in hot

water after performing drastic surgery on a

bullying teenage sportsman 2199720

5.00 CASUALTY A father threatens legal

action against the hospital when his son is

the victim of a misdiagnosis 078855

6.00 BERGERAC While Charlie gets an offer

that is hard to refuse, Jim is hired by an

American woman who wants her father to

stand trial for her mother's murder 3660671

7.00 IT AIN'T HALF HOT, MUM

The Concert Party are roped into testing

a new anti-malaria drug 9752942

7.40 KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Hyacinth's visit to her favourite stately home

goes wrong when her less-than-blue-blooded

relatives tag along 9111652

8.20 AS TIME GOES BY Lionel is moving

in with Jean but, as both have lived alone

for some time, will they be able to cope with

their new way of life? 4476841

9.00 ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES

An old schoolmate returns to Peckham to catch up

with Del and his cronies 2122267

10.20 My Family 1.00 Porridge

2.15 One Foot In The Grave

2.20 Men Behaving Badly

2.40 The Bill 3.40 Where The Heart Is 4.40 As Time Goes

By 5.15 Alistair McGowan's

Big Impression 5.25-6.00 It

Ain't Half Hot, Mum

ITV3

6.00 Survival 6.55 Peak

sporty telly

SKY SPORTS 1

6.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW 67126
7.00 TRANS WORLD SPORT 17768
8.00 THE RUGBY CLUB All the latest rugby union news and action 18497
9.00 RACING NEWS Racing reviews and previews 84768
9.30 BIG FIGHT COUNTDOWN 10671
10.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW 55774
11.00 RACING NEWS Racing reviews and previews 69300
11.30 LIVE EURO TOUR GOLF Coverage of the second day's play in the Dunhill Championship at the Houghton Golf Club in Johannesburg 794381

2.30 BIG FIGHT COUNTDOWN 2836

3.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE REVIEW 44045

4.00 THE RUGBY CLUB Simon Lazenby, Stuart Barnes and Déni Morris round up all the latest rugby union news and action 50652

5.00 PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW SHOW 1855
5.30 GILLETTE WORLD SPORT A global round-up of alternative sporting action 6652

6.00 SOCCER AM'S ALL SPORTS SHOW A quirky look ahead to the weekend's sport with the Soccer AM team 77738

7.00 PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW SHOW

Preview of the weekend's action, with up-to-date team news 4519
7.30 LIVE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: WEST HAM UNITED V LEEDS

UNITED Coverage of the Coca-Cola Championship from Upton Park. Kick-off at 7.45pm 673519

10.00 FRIDAY FIGHT NIGHT: JEFF LACY V OMAR SHEIKA/JOSE LUIS CASTILLO V JOEL CASAMAYOR

Jeff Lacy takes on Omar Sheika for the IBF super-middleweight title. Also on the bill, Jose Luis Castillo fights Joel Casamayor for the WBA light-welterweight title 43316

12.00 WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT: LATE NIGHT RAW Jim Ross and Jerry Lawler present the latest action from the WWE circuit 25782

2.00 FRIDAY FIGHT NIGHT: JEFF LACY V OMAR SHEIKA/JOSE LUIS CASTILLO V JOEL CASAMAYOR Another chance to see tonight's fights 46459

4.00 SOCCER AM'S ALL SPORTS SHOW 68879
5.00 PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW SHOW 45546

5.30 GILLETTE WORLD SPORT 25633

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00 AEROBICS: OZ STYLE 2050300 6.30 Netball Test Series: England v South Africa 551749 7.00 Aerobics: Oz Style 7678836 7.30 Freeze Sports 7680671
8.00 Fishing: Carp Show 8695923 8.30 US Golf 8329671 11.30 Aerobics: Oz Style 3498936
12.00 The Rugby Club 9212403 1.00 World Pool Championship 2004 5413836 3.00 Freeze Sports 8435478 3.30 NBA Action 9714720 4.00 Race World 3575687 5.00 NFL Weekly Review 8522958
6.00 Tight Lines 9218687
7.00 LIVE EUROPEAN RUGBY CUP: BOURGOIN V LEINSTER Kick-off at 7.30pm 2028584

10.00 SOCCER AM'S ALL SPORTS SHOW 2362316

11.00 PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW SHOW 3576316

11.30 ICC CRICKET WORLD 5421855

12.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE: WEST HAM UNITED V LEEDS

UNITED 9002099

1.30 EUROPEAN TOUR GOLF: DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP 5541546

4.30-6.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE: WEST HAM UNITED V LEEDS

UNITED 1899188

SKY SPORTS 3

7.00 WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP 2004 26434316 9.00 UEFA Champions League Highlights 2004/5:

Shakhtar Donetsk v Barcelona 4987582 9.30 Valencia v Bremen 93927300 10.00 Inter Milan v Anderlecht 54316039 10.30 Paris Saint Germain v CSKA Moscow 43475836 11.00 Panathinaikos v PSV Eindhoven 73014855

11.30 Celtic v AC Milan 73015584 12.00 Arsenal v Rosenborg, 94724328

12.30 Porto v Chelsea 4087836 1.00 Fenerbahce v Man United 26437403 1.30 Liverpool v Olympiacos 41228377

2.00 Roma v Real Madrid 48380497 2.30 Bayer Leverkusen v Dynamo Kiev 88997958 3.00 Deportivo v Monaco 48465132 3.30 Lyon v Sparta Prague 88992403

4.00 Ajax v Bayern Munich 8880010 4.30 Maccabi Tel Aviv v Juventus 7.00

8.00 Live Countdown 2 Kick-Off 8.00 Barney And Redford: Re-united 8.30 Terrace Talk 9.00 Red Hot News 9.30 Rudi: Above The Law 10.00 Call Ole Gunnar Solskjær 11.00-12.00 Countdown 2 Kick-Off

EUROSPORT

7.30 WATTS 51958
8.00 FOOTBALL: UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - TOTAL 23465
9.00 FOOTBALL: UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - TOTAL 70132
10.00 LIVE FIELD HOCKEY: NETHERLANDS V GERMANY Coverage of the Champions Trophy event in Pakistan 20346

11.30 LIVE CURLING Action from the European Championships 2992261

12.15 LIVE BIATHLON WORLD CUP Featuring the women's sprint 514229

6.00 Tight Lines 9218687

7.00 LIVE EUROPEAN RUGBY CUP:

BOURGOIN V LEINSTER

Kick-off at 7.30pm 2028584

10.00 SOCCER AM'S ALL SPORTS SHOW 2362316

11.00 PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW SHOW 3576316

11.30 ICC CRICKET WORLD 5421855

12.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE: WEST HAM UNITED V LEEDS

UNITED 9002099

1.30 EUROPEAN TOUR GOLF: DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP 5541546

4.30-6.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE: WEST HAM UNITED V LEEDS

UNITED 1899188

12.30 CLOSE

MUTV

Including at 6.00 Call Ole Gunnar Solskjær 7.00 Countdown 2 Kick-Off 8.00 Barney And Redford: Re-united 8.30 Terrace Talk 9.00 Red Hot News 9.30 Rudi: Above The Law 10.00 Call Ole Gunnar Solskjær 11.00-12.00 Countdown 2 Kick-Off

EXTREME

Including at 5.20 ASA Pro Tour 5.50 Exposure 6.25 Goldie Lookin' Chain 6.30 Gen/Ex 7.00 Up The Rebels 7.30 Throttle Junkies 8.00 Reunion 9.00 Legends Of The Extreme 10.00 Gravity Games 2003 11.00-12.00 Mike V's Greatest Hits

AT THE RACES: Racing news from 9am-1am



Charlie Catchpole

...on last night's telly



IMAGINE David Morrissey, alias Ripley Holden, the all-singing, all-dancing main attraction of **BLACKPOOL** (BBC1), appearing on *Celebrity Stars In Their Eyes*...

"Tonight, Matthew, I shall be Elvis Presley. Or Freddie Mercury. Smokey Robinson, Kenny Rogers, Ronnie Wood, or Diana Ross. Quite possibly, all of them."

Morrissey throws himself into the various songs that he lip-synchs in this remarkable roller-coaster drama with such gusto that he could turn himself into almost anyone he wanted to be.

The rest of the cast carry off their fantasy singing sequences with equal aplomb. Cold Feet's John Thomson, as Holden's put-

upon sidekick Terry, mimed to Alison Moyet's *Invisible* when Holden rounded beat him up for shopping him to the police ("I feel like I'm invisible, you treat me like I'm not really there and you don't really care"). If he had a shave and put on something loose-fitting, he'd look the part.

Crashing

As Ripley's wife Natalie (Sarah Parish) dithered about ditching him for Dr Peter Carlisle, they both mimed to The Clash's hit *Should I Stay Or Should I Go* – which said as much as several pages of dialogue.

Morrissey's business is crashing around him and his family falling

apart. But he can still manage the odd joke.

Describing Terry's girlfriend, Ripley said: "Figure like Halle Berry. Face like Chuck Berry."

And when a hooker mixed up in the murder case told him that his son Danny supplied her with drugs that he made in the school chemistry lab, Ripley replied: "Well, it's nice to know he's not wasting a good education."

You can go on as much as you like about the brilliance of contemporary American dramas such as *The Sopranos* and *Six Feet Under*, but *Blackpool* remains a triumph that is uniquely and inimitably British.

Can't wait for next week's finale.

titter telly

DISNEY

6.00 The Little Mermaid 6.25 Aladdin 6.50 House Of Mouse 7.15 Lizzie McGuire 7.35 That's So Raven 8.00 That's So Raven 8.25 Dave The Barbarian 8.50 Kim Possible 9.15 Fillmore

9.40 Sabrina 10.05 The Proud Family 10.30 Art Attack 10.50 House Of Mouse 11.15 The Legend Of Tarzan 11.45 Lilo And Stitch 12.05 Dave The Barbarian 12.30 Recess 12.55 Kim Possible 1.20 Lizzie McGuire 1.45 That's So Raven 2.10 Teen Angel 2.30 The Proud Family

2.55 Art Attack 3.20 Fillmore 3.45 Recess 4.05 Recess 4.30 Kim Possible 5.30 That's So Raven 6.00 Like Family 6.30 8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter 7.00

FILM: *The Pagemaster* (1994) A shy schoolboy goes to a mysterious library and discovers a mural which comes to life and traps him in an animated literary world. Fantasy adventure, starring Macaulay Culkin 8.15 Recess 8.35 Kim Possible 9.05 Lizzie McGuire 9.30 8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter 10.00

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HAT'S THAT, THEN: Johnny Depp and Mary Stuart Masterson, Paramount, 10.30pm

McBeal 3.00 Ned And Stacey 3.30 Everybody Loves Raymond 4.00 Soap 4.30 Minder 5.30 Becker 6.00 Frasier 6.30 Roseanne 7.00 M'A'S'H 8.00 Seinfeld 8.30 Becker 9.00 That 70s Show 9.30 Frasier 10.00 Frasier 10.30 FILM: *Benny And Joon* (1993) After taking in an eccentric house guest, a man's life as the carer for his mentally ill sister is turned upside down as he discovers she is falling in love. Romantic comedy, starring Johnny Depp and Mary Stuart Masterson 12.30 Kate And Allie 1.00 Dharma And Greg 1.30 Ellen Show 2.00 Cheers 2.30 Taxi 3.00 Linc's 3.00 Shock Jock 4.00 Close

NICKELODEON

6.00 Arthur 6.30 Rugrats 7.00 SpongeBob SquarePants 7.30 Nickelodeon Advent Calendar 8.00 Drake And Josh 8.30 Mr Bean 9.00 As Told By Ginger 9.30 Arthur 10.30 CatDog 11.30 Rugrats 12.30 Mr Bean 1.30 Arthur 2.00 Rugrats 3.00 As Told By Ginger 3.30 SpongeBob

12.50 Clueless 1.15 Celebrity 1.20 70s Show 1.50 Malibu 2.20 Just Deal 2.45 Celebrity Extra 2.50 Date My Sister 3.20 High School 3.50 Celebrity 4.00 Fresh Prince 4.30 Run 5.00 One 5.30 Parkers 6.30 Clueless 6.55 Clean 7.00 Moesha 7.30 Date My Sister 8.00 Malibu 8.30 Spider-Man 9.00 Undergrads 9.30 Celebrity 9.35 Parkers 10.05 One 10.35 Run 11.05 Parkers 11.30 Eve 12.00 Grounded 12.30 Jesse 12.55 Celebrity 1.00 Close

TCM

3.05 Battleground (1949) War drama 5.20 Ride, Vaquero! (1953) Western, starring Robert Taylor 7.00 Where The Spies Are (1965) Comedy, starring David Niven 9.00 Excalibur (1981) Fantasy, starring Nigel Terry 11.40

The Ice Pirates (1984) Science fiction, starring Robert Urich 1.20 Once A Thief (1965) Crime drama

99.8MHz 7.00 Chris Moyles Show, 10.00 Jo Whiley, 12.45 Newsbeat, 1.00 Colin And Edith, 4.00 Scott Mills, 6.00 Pete Tong, 9.00 Westwood, 11.00 Reggae Dancehall, 1.00 Fabio And Grooverider, 3.00 1Xtra Presents, 6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jeremy Vine, 2.00 Steve Wright, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Sam Cooke Story, 7.30 Music Night, 9.15 Woman In White, 9.30 Listen To The Band, 10.00 Mariella Frostrup, 12.00 Bob Harris, 3.00 Janet Lee Grace

Radio 1 (FM: 97.6-99.8MHz) 7.00 Chris Moyles Show, 10.00 Jo Whiley, 12.45

Newsbeat, 1.00 Colin And Edith, 4.00 Scott Mills, 6.00 Pete Tong, 9.00 Westwood, 11.00 Reggae Dancehall, 1.00 Fabio And Grooverider, 3.00 1Xtra Presents, 6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jeremy Vine, 2.00 Steve Wright, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Sam Cooke Story, 7.30 Music Night, 9.15 Woman In White, 9.30 Listen To The Band, 10.00 Mariella Frostrup, 12.00 Bob Harris, 3.00 Janet Lee Grace

Radio 2 (FM: 88.90-92.2MHz) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jeremy Vine, 2.00 Steve Wright, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Sam Cooke Story, 7.30 Music Night, 9.15 Woman In White, 9.30 Listen To The Band, 10.00 Mariella Frostrup, 12.00 Bob Harris, 3.00 Janet Lee Grace

Radio 4 (FM: 92.4-94.6MHz; LW: 198 KHz) 5.35 News, 5.35 Shipping, 5.43 Prayer For The Day, 5.45 Farming Today, 6.00 Today, 6.00 News, 6.00 Desert Island Discs, 6.45 Book Of The Week: Wrong About Japan, 6.45 Act Of Worship, 6.50 News, 6.50 Woman's Hour, 6.55 Shipping, 6.55 Shipping, 6.55 Weather, 6.60 News, 6.60 Rejoins FM, 6.70 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The Archers, 7.15 From Row 745 The Wills' Girls, 8.00 News, Any Questions? 8.50 A View From..., 9.00 News, Friday Play: Running To Paradise, 9.30 News, Veg Talk: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The Sculptor's Daughter, 3.45 Henry's People, 4.00 News, Word Of Mouth, 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, (LW) 5.54 Shipping, (LW) 5.57 Weather, 6.00 News, (LW) 6.00 Rejoins FM, 6.30 The Now Show, 7.00 News, 7.00 The

TV'S FIRST LADY OF FOOTBALL ON LIFE & LOVE

When we get to see each other it's **REALLY EXCITING**

GORGEOUS Gabby Logan may have won over the male-dominated world of TV sport but she was unlucky with men off screen – until she met her future husband Kenny. Here she tells the Daily Star about how she finally found the love of her life...

WHILE Gabby Logan is being photographed in a sexy, slinky outfit, the studio cat decides to pee on her jumper.

Does she throw a diva tantrum? Nope. Gabby just laughs, sniffs the sleeve and screws up her nose.

She doesn't even ask for a clean top to go home in.

Instead, she blasts the offending wet patch with a hairdryer, puts her jumper back on and joins the rest of the crew for lunch. What a gal!

Gabby, 31, appears care-free but despite a successful career as the face of ITV Sport – and being happily married to Scottish rugby star Kenny Logan – the past year has been difficult for her.

After 33 years of marriage, her footballing dad Terry Yorath and mum Christine, a property developer, broke up. The

split took its toll on the whole family.

"I don't live in a cocoon of loneliness – 2004 was an emotional year for me," she admits.

Despite her parents' turmoil, Gabby reflects on the success of her own three-year marriage and is thankful that hers is stronger than ever.

"It's hard seeing my parents' relationship deteriorating," she says. "I love them both."

"My dad isn't great at talking things through. I look at Kenny and feel lucky we meet half way. Kenny's very talkative, which is fantastic, and we're a great match."

Gabby met Kenny six years ago and the pair have homes in London and Scotland, where Kenny plays for Glasgow Warriors. She's still

madly in love. "The way we are together is still the same and he does lovely things for me. He makes me feel so special."

"I knew I'd marry him. The first time I met him I was bowled over. Before that I had been celibate and given up on men."

"I'd been dating but didn't enjoy it and felt empty on days like Sundays as I had male friends but no

one special." After finding fame it was hard for Gabby to trust blokes.

"In my job you meet a certain kind of man. I'd go into the bar at Sky and then the ITV bar. If men looked at me I'd question if it was because they liked me or because they recognised me from TV."

But Kenny wasn't in awe of her. "He didn't know who I was when we met," she recalls. "He thought I was Gaby Roslin!"

It didn't take long for their romance to turn serious.

"We lived together for six months and got engaged after a year and a half. Marriage just gave us more certainty and it's

wonderful," she says. Her long hours at work and Kenny's career mean they have to plan their time together carefully.

"Relationships aren't easy and you have to put the effort in."

"Kenny and I aren't together every day and it's hard. I knew he wouldn't be fulfilled if he didn't play in Glasgow, which is why we live like this."

"But he's grateful to me for giving him this chance. I miss him when I leave Glasgow but we're good on the phone."

"Sometimes I have five flights in a week for foreign trips – it's great fun but tiring. The good thing is that when we see each other it's really exciting."

Success also means Gabby must deal with the pressures of fame.

"It isn't hard for me because I don't get involved in the celebrity circuit or go to showbiz

dos. I also don't put that pressure on myself to keep looking young. I feel fantastic right now and don't worry about ageing."

"I've lived a full life with lots of experiences and it would look silly if I did the Botox thing. I just look after myself and have a strict regime in terms of my lifestyle. I'm not leaving it to chance."

"I'm happy with my shape. I fluctuate by about two or three pounds but only I notice it. Kenny laughs at me when I say I'm bigger, but he loves the way I look!"

And he was very happy with last year's pics of her in GQ magazine.

"He loved them. I knew they would come out well and although I wasn't the cover girl – I think it was Jade Jagger, I couldn't compete with her!"

"It was the first time I'd done anything glamorous so I was really pleased."



by EMMA BUSSEY



CHECK out the full interview with Gabby in the January issue of Top Santa magazine, out tomorrow.

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HOW'S this for brilliant value? Three Ferraris for £24.99.

And that's because zooming out of the pitstop - and just in time for Christmas - toy maker Tomy has launched the Ferrari Compact Char-G Set, which is officially licenced by Ferrari themselves.

This speed-demon set features three of the most stylish car designs ever seen - the Testarossa, F40 and 512BB - naturally all in red.

These mini motors are just two-and-a-half-inches long and come with a pocket-sized wireless remote controller, which doubles as a charger, and takes just 45 seconds to work.

This stylish set has a distinctive Ferrari red box, making it a

TOMY

really great Christmas gift. But before you rush off to buy one, I've got a terrific TEN to give away this week.

All you have to do to win one is simply phone **0905 028 0202** and leave your name and address.

Your call will cost just 25p from a BT landline, cheaper than a stamp. Alternatively, text DSMOTOR followed by your name and details to 61616.

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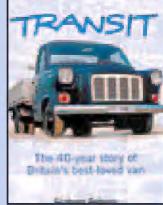
Winners will be chosen by midnight next Thursday, at random from all entries. Normal rules apply. The Char-G Set is also available from www.mailorderexpress.com/tomy or 08700 12 90 90.

Good luck folks.

WIN 5 GREAT BOOKS

BELIEVE it or not, the Ford Transit will soon be 40 years old, and the story of Britain's best-loved van is told in a new book published by Haynes, simply called Transit.

Written by Graham Robson, with a foreword by boxing legend Sir Henry Cooper, Transit is a fun book that's packed with photos and stories which make it a must for every white van man. And I've got five of these £16.99 books just waiting to be given away.



Want one? Well all you have to do is tell me an amusing Transit tale (no more than 50 words, please) or, if you haven't got one, why you need most need this book.

Send your entries to: TRANSIT, George Fowler, Motoring Editor, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN, and I'll sort out five

winners. Oh, and keep your stories clean, please. 'Cos I know what you lot are like. Good luck, folks.

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MOTOR MOUTH

TURBO NUTTER:
It may be diesel,
but this Octavia is
a rocket-ship



IMAGE RATING

HERE'S how the Skoda Octavia 2.0-litre diesel turbo fares image-wise.

REAR MIRROR MONSTER: Extremely elegant. New flush-fitting bumper, wider headlights and bigger grille give it that "move over, big car here" threat.

BACKSIDE BEAUTY: Not sensational, but not boring either. Just a well put together piece of work. Smart effort.

PLAYTIME PLEASE: Twin-zone climate control with separate settings for driver and passenger, trip computer, heated, electric, folding mirrors, rain-sensitive wipers, cruise control, eight-speaker stereo with six-CD autochanger.

NAUGHTY NIGGLES: Doors need to be slammed shut, otherwise you get a warning light.

TASTY TOUCHES: Auto-dimming rear view mirror, rear parking sensors, Mercedes-style door mirrors that leave a light on so you can see in the dark.

FAST OR LAST: Unbelievable mid-range power. A real scorcher.

WONGA WONDER: Fantastic value for money. But how long can Skoda keep this up?

WOULD AN ESSEX GIRL LIKE IT? Actually, Essex girls love their little Skodas. But a big shiny one? Well not as a car, anyway.

Skoda's got

SOMETIMES I think I've lost the plot. There I was driving around for a week in the new Skoda Octavia and as far as I was concerned it looked exactly the same as the old one.

Like all new cars these days it's apparently longer, wider, taller, smoother, more impressive and in the case of the new Octavia, say Skoda: "It produces a highly self-confident and ambitious impression." Hmmm.

So I parked it next to the "old" Octavia and I still couldn't tell the difference. Well that's it, I decided. It was my birthday during the week I drove it and as I was now a whole year older, I'd obviously turned overnight into some kind of blind, doddering, old git.

Then, the day before Skoda were due to take it back to the Czech Republic to be cleaned, or maybe just Milton Keynes where partners VW, Audi and Seat hatch their plans for Global Domination, I popped round to Steve's garage to fill it up. Surprisingly, Steve was there himself, actually doing some work. "Hey George," he said, "is that the new Octavia?"

Looked

"Yep, certainly is," I told him. He looked at it again. "Are you sure?" he asked.

"Yeah, course I'm sure. Look at the registration plate."

"Which one have you got?" he asked, filling it up with diesel.

"Er, it's a diesel ... I hope."

"Yes I know that, but is it a 1.9 or a 2.0-litre turbo?"

"It's a 2-litre turbo."

"Bloody fast isn't it," said Steve. "My mate's just bought one and I

SMART: The Skoda rear end



went out in it last week. It's incredible." Hurrah! I was not, after all, a doddering old git. He couldn't tell the difference either.

However, it's fair enough to say that he was right about one thing. It is astonishingly quick.

Now a 0-62mph time of 9.6secs might not sound particularly impressive these days, but a top speed of 129mph gives you some idea of where this car's real strengths lie.

In mid-range, it is spectacular.

Groups of women who knit woolies for their little lambs will tell you that speed kills. Well it doesn't. It's people who drive too quickly, chat on their mobiles and

don't look where they're going who have accidents. In fact speed helps. Now there's a slogan that'll have them choking on their lemon-scented tea.

You see, the less time you're on the wrong side of the road, the less time you have to hit someone.

Nutter

A typical overtaking manoeuvre, say from 50 to 70mph, in third gear takes around 10 seconds.

The Octavia 2.0-litre diesel turbo achieves this in just over three seconds. That is blisteringly quick.

Just for fun, and on my newly-acquired private jet runway, the Octavia hit 60 to 90mph in six sec-